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ABSTRACT

Designed to supplement the actual reading of children's books, this book provides an introduction to children's literature. It focuses on general trends and patterns rather than plot summaries. The two-part organization of the third edition explores first the foundations and contexts, then the various genres of children's literature. Discussion ranges from picture books--newly divided between those for the very young and those for older children--to informational books. Expanded, more developed coverage of cultural and social diversity in the book includes literature by and about minority cultures and books on alternative families, homosexuality, individuals facing physical, mental, and emotional challenges, and gender concerns. Chapters in the book are: (1) The History of Children's Literature; (2) Child Development and Literature; (3) Cultural and Social Diversity; (4) Understanding Literature; (5) Responding to Literature; (6) Books for the Very Young; (7) Picture Storybooks; (8) Folk Literature; (9) Poetry; (10) Fantasy; (11) Contemporary and Historical Realism; (12) Biography; and (13) Informational Books. An appendix lists award-winning children's books. (RS)

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